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CLAIMS

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What is claimed is:

8. A pharmaceutical composition for stimulating sexual response in a mammal,
5 comprising a peptide and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein said peptide is a free acid
or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof comprising a sequence selected from the group
consisting of His-Phe-Arg-Trp (SEQ ID NO:1), His-D-Phe-Arg-Trp, homologs of His-Phe-Arg-Trp
(SEQ ID NO:1) and homologs of His-D-Phe-Arg-Trp.

9. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 8, wherein said peptide is a cyclic peptide.

10. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 8, wherein said peptide has a terminal
carboxyl group.

11. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 8, wherein the peptide consists of the
15 sequence Ac-Nle-cyclo(-Asp-His-D-Phe-Arg-Trp-Lys)-OH.

12. A method for stimulating sexual response in a mammal, comprising administering a
pharmaceutically sufficient amount of a composition comprising a peptide or pharmaceutically
acceptable salt thereof of the formula Ac-Nle-cyclo(-Asp-His-D-Phe-Arg-Trp-Lys)-OH.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the mammal is a male.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein the mammal is a female.

15. The method of claim 12, wherein the pharmaceutically sufficient amount is at a dose
25 level that does not induce emesis or other deleterious side effects.

16. The method of claim of claim 12, wherein the composition further comprises a
pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

17. The method of claim 12, wherein administering comprises administering by a method of administration selected from the group consisting of administration by injection, administration through mucous membranes, buccal administration, oral administration, dermal administration, inhalation administration and nasal administration.

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18. The method of claim 17, wherein administering comprises nasal administration of a metered amount of a formulation comprising an aqueous buffer.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the aqueous buffer is a member selected from the group consisting of saline and citrate buffer.

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20. A method for stimulating sexual response in a mammal, comprising administering a pharmaceutically sufficient amount of a composition comprising peptide wherein said peptide is a free acid or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof comprising a sequence selected from the group consisting of His-Phe-Arg-Trp (SEQ ID NO:1), His-D-Phe-Arg-Trp, homologs of His-Phe-Arg-Trp (SEQ ID NO:1) and homologs of His-D-Phe-Arg-Trp.

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21. The method of claim 20, wherein the mammal is a male.

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22. The method of claim 20, wherein the mammal is a female.

23. The method of claim 20, wherein the peptide consists of the sequence Ac-Nle-cyclo(-Asp-His-D-Phe-Arg-Trp-Lys)-OH.

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24. The method of claim of claim 20, wherein the composition further comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

25. The method of claim 20, wherein administering comprises administering by a method of administration selected from the group consisting of administration by injection, administration through mucous membranes, buccal administration, oral administration, dermal administration, inhalation administration and nasal administration.

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26. The method of claim 20, wherein administering comprises nasal administration of a metered amount of a formulation comprising an aqueous buffer.

5 27. The method of claim 26, wherein the aqueous buffer is a member selected from the group consisting of saline and citrate buffer.